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SOURCE

Ching-chi Chou-pao (Economic Weekly) Vol XI, No 22, 1950.

PRESENT CONDITION OF HUAI-PEI SALT PANS

The 2 November 1950 issue of the Ching-chi Chou-pao, Vol XI, No 18, contained an article by Yang Chung-ch'i on "The Present Conditions of the Salt Pans of Shapel and Their Reforms." That account is not quite true in regard to the actual conditions on the Huai-pei salt pans. To give the public a faithful picture, the Planning Section of the Huai-pei Salt Control Bureau offers this article.

Location of Salt Pans

Since 7 November 1948, when all the salt pans were liberated, the administration of the pans has undergone reorganization. The pans are now divided into six groups: Hsin-t'an, Kuan-tung, Kuan-hsi, Fang-yang, T'ai-nan, and T'ai-pei. The Hsin-t'an pans include all the newly built pans along the east bank of the Huai Ho, and all the pans which formerly belonged to the Ching-jih-hsin and Yd-t'ung corporations in Tsinan. The Kuan-tung pans include all the former Tsinan pans along the east bank of the Kuan Ho, and those pans of the former Ta-yuan and Ta-yu-chin

The Kuan-hsi pans include all the former Tsinan pans which belonged to the Kung-chi, Ta-yu-chin, Ta-fou, and Ta-te corporations, along the west bank of Kuan Ho. The Fang-yang pans include those in Kan-tung, Kan-hsi, and Nan-fang-yang c... chius, formerly the Chung-cheng pans. The T'ai-nan pans are located south of Yun-t'ai Shan and include all the pans in Hao-tung and Hao-hai ch'us and some of the pans in Nan-fang-yang Ch'u, also former Chung-cheng pans.

The T'ai-pei pans include all the former Pan-p'u pans and some of the former Ch'ing-k'ou pans. Besides the Tsinan, Chung-cheng, and Pan-phu groups mood pans, dating from the time of enemy administration, the aforementioned six groups of pans also include several hundred pans built by the new Fourth Army, before V-J Day, throughout the present Pin-hai Hsien, east of Fou-ning Hsien, These newly built pans constitute the three eastern locations of the present Hsin-t'an pans.

As for the former Ch'ing-k'ou pans, the 12 former Ta-hsin pans of Kan-man and Kan-pei are now allocated to the T'ai-pei pans, while the former Ch'ing-sanchung area, which was composed of T'ang-sheng, Hsing-chuang, and Che-wang, has been completely assigned to the Shantung [control] Bureau. The present detailed allocation within each group is also different from the preliberation plan.

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Quantity of Production

- 1. Prior to the Japanese invasion in 1937, the average annual production over 10 years was 7,432,000 piculs, with a peak of 13,580,000 piculs in 1935.
- 2. During the Japanese occupation, the average annual production was 3,766,000 piculs; 1939 production had the lowest record, 938,000 piculs, while 1943 had the highest production figure, 5,624,000 piculs.
- 3. The liberation of all the salt pans was completed as late as November 1948, when the producing season already had passed. Until that time, the T'ainan and T'ai-pei pans were still in the hands of the Nationalists, and the Fangyang, Kuan-hsi, and Kuan-tung pans were affected by the war so frequently that normal production was impossible. It was therefore difficult to work out accurate production data. According to estimates, however, the 1948 production of all the pans did not exceed that of 1949 or 1950. In 1949, production, amounted to 5,586,689 piculs; in 1950, it was 6,134,580 piculs. The average for these 2 years was 5,860,335 piculs, which was 80 percent of the average production of the 10 years prior to the Japanese invasion in 1937, or more than 55 percent over the average production of the period from 1937 to the liberation.

Moreover, in 1950, the spring rainfall was extremely heavy. Yang says that "up to 5 June, the salt production has reached 2,300,000 piculs, a figure which is quite satisfactory." This figure is not correct.

Quality of Salt

Our policy for 1950 is to "increase the quantity, improve the quality, and lower the cost of production." From the results of repeated experiments, we find that the quality of salt produced in 1950 is much better. As the record of the spring yield will show, about 94.8 percent of the production can be classified as Grade-A salt, leaving only 5.2 percent classified as Grade-B. Grade-A salt contains about 90 percent sodium chloride, while Grade-B salt contains more than 85 percent. But we still do not feel satisfied; we keep on learning, doing experimental work, and trying to improve production techniques. Yang's description of the quality of the salt has doubtlessly left the public with a bad impression about our management.

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